

ABSTRACT

The present invention is broadly directed to therapeutic molecules capable of *inter alia* modulating apoptosis in mammalian cells. The therapeutic molecules of the present invention encompass genetic sequences and chemical entities capable of regulating expression of a novel mammalian gene belonging to the *bcl-2* family and which promotes cell survival. The therapeutic molecules of the present invention may have further utility in delaying cell cycle entry. In addition, the present invention extends to chemical entities capable of modulating activity and function of the translation product of said novel gene of the *bcl-2* family. The present invention also extends to the translation product of the novel gene of the *bcl-2* family and its use in, for example, therapy, diagnosis, antibody generation and as a screening tool for therapeutic molecules capable of modulating physiological cell death or survival and/or modulating cell cycle entry.